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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,995	03/11/2004	Wah Kan Cheung	20278.0 Cheung	5166

1342 7590 02/16/2005

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EXAMINER

WRIGHT, ANDREW D


ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3617

DATE MAILED: 02/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

JB

 Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/797,995	CHEUNG, WAH KAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Andrew Wright	3617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/24/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ramesh (US 6,492,013). Foam composite structure (28) may be used to form a bodyboard. The structure comprises a core (12), intermediate layer (14), and first layer (24). The core may comprise polyethylene and may have any desired thickness, including the range of 0.05 inch to 2.25 inches. The intermediate layer comprises polypropylene and ethylene alpha olefin copolymer and may have any thickness, including the range of 0.005 inch to 0.25 inch. The first layer may comprise polypropylene and may have a thickness in the range of 0.05 inch to 2.25 inches.
3. Claim 2, the intermediate layer comprises ethylene alpha olefin copolymer.
4. Claim 3, the intermediate layer comprises ethylene and 1-octene.
5. Claim 4, the core comprises polyethylene.
6. Claim 6, the first layer comprises polypropylene.
7. Claim 9, the layers are heat and pressure bonded.
8. Claim 11, the first layer comprises polypropylene foam.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bambara et al. (US 5,882,776) in view of Schneider et al. (US 5,211,593). Bambara includes the elements of claims 1-9 and 11. Bambara shows a foam structure comprising core (4), intermediate layer (24), and first layer (22). The thickness of each layer is shown in figure 3. The foam structure can be a bodyboard. The core and layers are foams. The foams can be any of the polymer and copolymer blends listed in line 63 of column 6 through line 18 of column 7. Bambara discloses ethylene-alpha olefin copolymer, copolymer of ethylene with octene, polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene vinyl acetate, thermal bonding. Regarding claim 10, Bambara does not disclose a graphically imprinted layer bonded to the outer surface of the first layer. Schneider shows a body board with layer (44). Graphically imprinted layer (42) is bonded to the outer surface of layer (44). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bambara by adding a graphic layer as taught by Schneider. The motivation would be to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the bodyboard.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Andrew D. Wright at telephone number (703) 308-6841. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano, can be reached at (703) 308-0230. The fax number for official communications is 703-872-9306. The fax number directly to the examiner for unofficial communications is 703-746-3548.

The examiner and his supervisor are relocating to the new Office campus in Alexandria, VA, on or around April 11, 2005. Telephone calls to the examiner and/or examiner's supervisor after that date should be directed as follows. The examiner's new telephone will be (571) 272-6690. The examiner's fax number for unofficial communications will be (571) 273-6690. The supervisor's new telephone number will be (571) 272-6684.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Andrew D. Wright

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Patent Examiner

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AW 2/11/05
ANDREW D. WRIGHT
PRIMARY EXAMINER